

We claim:

1. A method for controlling a digital video recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a plurality of signals corresponding to a plurality of video programs from a signal source;

selecting ones of the plurality of video programs for recording in response to user commands;

storing the selected video programs in a storage device;

10 maintaining data related to the video programs stored in the storage device; and

providing, in response to the digital video recording apparatus being placed in a power ON state, an initial on screen display message indicating an available number of video programs stored in the storage device.

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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the available number of video programs comprises a number of video programs stored in the storage device since the last time the apparatus was in the power ON state.

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3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the initial on screen display message further displays selected attributes of the available number of video programs stored in the storage device.

25 4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the selected attributes includes the titles of the available number of video programs.

5. The method according to claim 3, wherein the selected attributes includes the time the respective ones of the available number of video programs was stored in the storage device.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the available number of programs comprises a number of video programs stored in the storage device since a last time the user accessed a full program listing display that lists all the programs stored on the storage device.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the initial on screen display message further displays selected attributes of the available number of video programs stored in the storage device.

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8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the selected attributes includes the titles of the available number of video programs.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the selected attributes includes the time the respective ones of the available number of video programs was stored in the storage device.

10. A digital video recording apparatus, comprising:
a signal input for receiving a plurality of signals corresponding to a plurality of
15 video programs from a signal source;
tuning means for selecting ones of the plurality of video programs in response to user commands;
recording means for storing the selected video programs in a storage device response to further user commands;
20 generating means for generating on screen display messages;
control means, coupled to and controlling the operation of the tuning means, the recording means and the generating means, the control means causing the generating means to generate, in response to the apparatus being placed in a power ON state, an initial on screen display message indicating an available number of
25 video programs stored in the storage device.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the available number of video programs comprises a number of video programs stored in the storage device since the last time the apparatus was in the power ON state.

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12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the initial on screen display message further displays selected attributes of the available number of video programs stored in the storage device.

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13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the selected attributes includes the titles of the available number of video programs.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the selected attributes
5 includes the time the respective ones of the available number of video programs was stored in the storage device.

15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the available number of
programs comprises a number of video programs stored in the storage device since a
10 last time the user accessed a full program listing display that lists all the programs stored on the storage device.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the initial on screen display
message further displays selected attributes of the available number of video
15 programs stored in the storage device.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the selected attributes includes the titles of the available number of video programs.

20 18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the selected attributes includes the time the respective ones of the available number of video programs was stored in the storage device.